

HM-623

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

Claims 1-6. (Canceled)

7. (Previously presented) Method for operating a gas supply system for a side blowing and/or bottom blowing metallurgical furnace with at least one tuyere (5), which is mounted in the side wall and/or in the bottom of the furnace, wherein gas is conveyed through a line (6) of the gas supply system (3) and through the tuyere (5) to the interior of the metallurgical furnace and emerges there in the form of bubbles, wherein the flow of gas into the interior of the furnace is periodically reduced or interrupted at frequencies greater than 5 Hz.